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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) Substantially pure desloratadine having an HPLC purity greater than 99.5%, and having an absorbance less than 0.15 Au at 420 nm for a 5%w/v solution in methanol, which does not show a peak for an impurity at a relative retention time in the range from about 0.85 to about 0.99 (relative to desloratadine appearing at a retention time of 25±5 minutes) which is greater than the discard limit set at less than 0.025% of total area, when tested according to an HPLC method performed using a Hypersil BDS C_8 column (15 cm x 4.6 mm, 5 µm particle size) with the following parameters:

Mobile phase: Buffer solution having a pH of about 3, methanol and acetonitrile in a volume ratio of 8:1:1.

Injection volume : 20µl

Flow rate : 1.5 ml/minute

Run time : 75 minutes

Discard limit : Set at less than 0.025% of total area

2. (Original) Substantially pure desloratadine as claimed in claim 1, wherein (a) total impurities are not more than 0.5%; and (b) no individual impurity is greater than 0.1%.

3. (Original) Substantially pure desloratadine as claimed in claim 2, wherein the total impurities are less than 0.3%.

4. (Currently Amended) [[A s]]Substantially pure desloratadine of claim 1, 2 or 3 prepared by a process comprising acidic hydrolysis of a compound of formula 3, where R is selected from COR_1, $COOR_1$, wherein R_1 is selected from branched or linear alkyl containing 1

to 6 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, aralkyl and their substituted analogs; ~~by~~ the acidic hydrolysis comprising

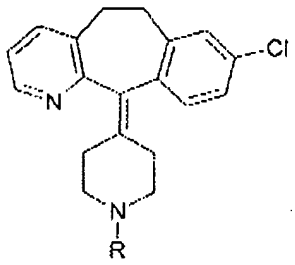
heating with a strong organic acid or a mineral acid for about 1 hour to about 24 hours,

~~adjustment of~~ adjusting pH of the hydrolysed reaction mixture to ~~a pH between the range of~~ about 3 to ~~about~~ 5, ~~optional treatment~~

optionally treating with an adsorbent, ~~adjustment of~~

adjusting the pH of the reaction mixture to ~~a pH of~~ greater than about 9, and

~~isolation of~~ isolating desloratadine[[.]]



Formula 3.

5. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The substantially pure desloratadine of claim 4 prepared by a process comprising ~~acidic hydrolysis of a compound of formula 3, by~~ heating to about 20° to 150°C in the presence of a strong acid ~~with an acid at a temperature between the range of ambient to about 150°C.~~

6. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The substantially pure desloratadine of claim 4 prepared by a process further comprising ~~recrystallization of~~ recrystallizing desloratadine from a solvent system comprising a mixture of an alcohol and a hydrocarbon solvent.

7. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The substantially pure desloratadine of claim 6 wherein the alcohol is methanol and the hydrocarbon solvent is cyclohexane.

8. (Currently Amended) A process for preparation of substantially pure desloratadine comprising acidic hydrolysis of a compound of formula 3, where R is selected from COR_1, $COOR_1$, wherein R_1 is selected from branched or linear alkyl containing 1 to 6 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, aralkyl and their substituted analogs; ~~and their substituted analogs, by~~ comprising

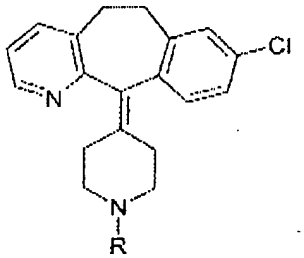
heating the compound of **formula** 3 in the presence of ~~with~~ a strong organic acid or a mineral acid for about 1 hour to about 24 hours, ~~adjustment of~~

adjusting the pH of the hydrolysed reaction mixture to ~~a pH between the range of~~ about 3 to ~~about~~ 5,

~~optional treatment~~ optionally treating the pH adjusted reaction mixture with an adsorbent, ~~adjustment of~~

adjusting the pH of the reaction mixture to ~~a pH of~~ greater than about 9, and

~~isolation of~~ isolating desloratadine[[.]]



Formula 3.

9. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The process as claimed in claim 8 wherein R is $COOR_1$ and R_1 is ethyl and the ~~organic~~ acid is methanesulfonic acid.

10. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The process as claimed in claim 8 wherein R is $COOR_1$ and R_1 is ethyl and the ~~mineral~~ acid is sulphuric acid.

11. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The process as claimed in claim 8, comprising ~~acidic hydrolysis of a compound of **formula 3, by**~~ heating to about 20° to 150°C in the presence of a strong acid ~~with an acid at a temperature between the range of ambient to about 150°C~~.

12. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The process as claimed in claim 11, comprising ~~acidic hydrolysis of a compound of **formula 3, by**~~ heating ~~with an acid at a temperature between the range of~~ about to about 60°C to ~~about~~ 110°C in the presence of a strong acid.

13. (Currently amended) [[A]] The process as claimed in claim 9, ~~wherein the acidic~~ hydrolysis ~~is carried out by~~ comprising heating with ~~metahnesulfonic~~ methanesulfonic acid for 5 to 15 hours at ~~a temperature between the range of~~ about 90°C to ~~about~~ 120°C.

14. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The process as claimed in claim 10, ~~wherein the acidic hydrolysis is carried out by~~ comprising heating with sulphuric acid for 1 to 5 hours at a ~~temperature between the range of~~ about 90°C to ~~about~~ 120°C.

15. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The process as claimed in claim 8, wherein adsorbent is selected from charcoal, neutral or alkaline alumina, silica ~~or~~ and fuller's earth.

16. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The process as claimed in claim 8, comprising ~~adjustment of~~ adjusting the pH of the reaction mixture to ~~a pH between the range of~~ about 4 to ~~about~~ 5, ~~treatment~~ treating with charcoal, ~~adjustment of~~ adjusting the pH of the reaction mixture to ~~a pH of about~~ greater than about 9 and ~~isolation of~~ isolating desloratadine.

17. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The process as claimed in claim 8, further comprising ~~recrystallization of~~ recrystallizing desloratadine from a solvent system comprising of two or more ~~protic or aprotic~~ solvents selected from water, alcohols, linear hydrocarbons, branched hydrocarbons, ~~or~~ cyclic hydrocarbons, aromatic hydrocarbons, ethers, ketones, nitriles, esters, and their halo or substituted analogs ~~and the like~~.

18. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The process as claimed in claim 8, further comprising ~~recrystallization of~~ recrystallizing desloratadine from a solvent system comprising a mixture of an alcohol and a hydrocarbon solvent.

19. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The process as claimed in claim 18 wherein alcohol is methanol and hydrocarbon solvent is cyclohexane.

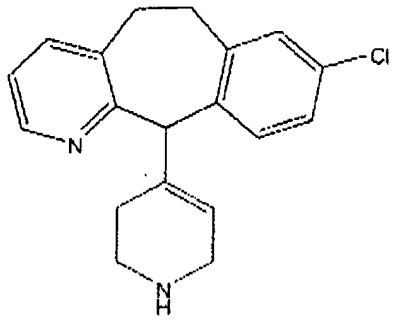
20. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The process as claimed in claim 19, wherein the ratio of methanol:cyclohexane is 1:14 v/v.

21. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The process as claimed in claim 8 for preparation of substantially pure desloratadine as described in claim 1, 2 or 3.

22. (New) Desloratadine having an HPLC purity greater than 99.5% which does not show a peak corresponding to an impurity of formula 4 when tested according to an HPLC method performed using a Hypersil BDS C_8 column (15 cm x 4.6 mm, 5 µm particle size) with the following parameters:

Mobile phase: Buffer solution having a pH of about 3, methanol and acetonitrile in a volume ratio of 8:1:1.

Injection volume	: 20µl
Flow rate	: 1.5 ml/minute
Run time	: 75 minutes
Discard limit	: Set at less than 0.025% of total area[[.]]



Formula 4.